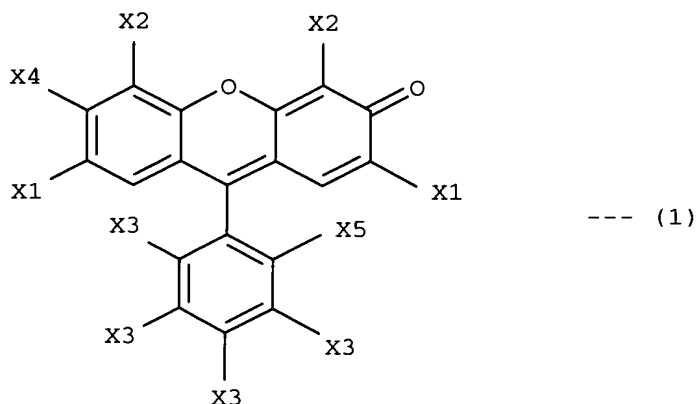


## CLAIMS

1. A method for assaying a protein by using a protein assay indicator,

5        wherein a compound having a chemical structure expressed by the following Chemical Formula (1) is used as the protein assay indicator:



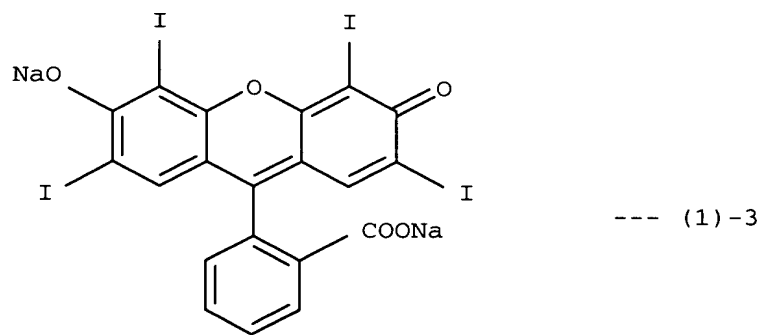
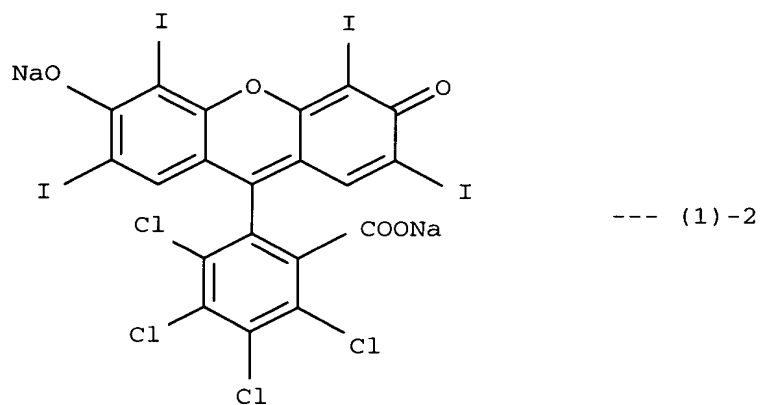
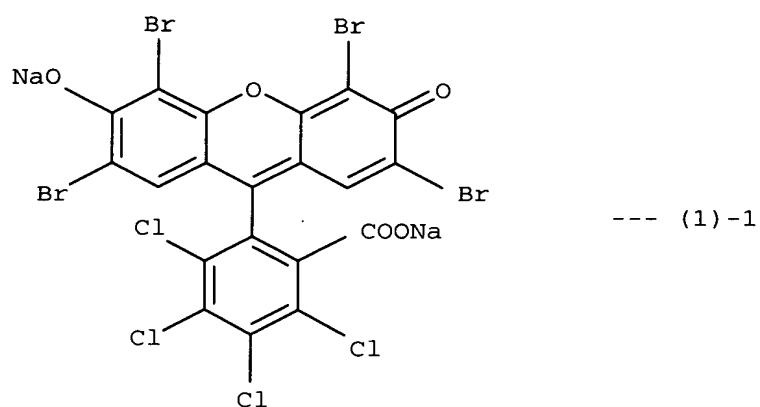
10        where, in Chemical Formula (1), X1 is a halogen, a nitro group, or a nitroso group; X2 is a halogen; X3 is a halogen or hydrogen; X4 is a hydroxyl group or a salt thereof; and X5 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

15        2. The protein assay method according to Claim 1, wherein, in Chemical Formula (1), X1 is iodine, bromine, chlorine, or a nitro group, X2 is iodine or bromine, and X3 is chlorine, bromine, or hydrogen.

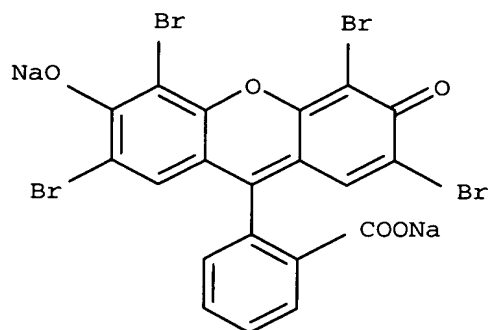
20        3. The protein assay method according to Claim 2, wherein, in Chemical Formula (1), X1 and X2 are iodine or bromine, and X3 is chlorine.

4. The protein assay method according to Claim 3, wherein at least one compound selected from the group of compounds expressed by the following Chemical Formulas (1)-1 to (1)-5 is used as the protein indicator.

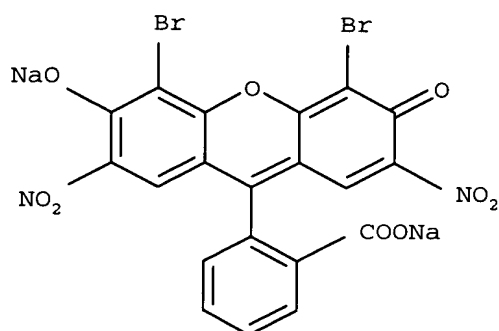
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--- (1)-4



--- (1)-5

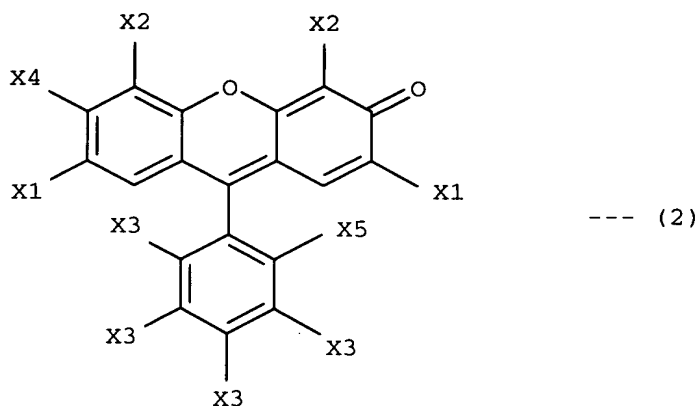
5 5. The protein assay method according to Claim 1, wherein the protein indicator is from colorless to light orange in color when no protein is present at a pH equal to or below the pKa of said protein indicator, but is from red to purple in color when a protein is present.

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6. The protein assay method according to Claim 1, wherein the protein is albumin.

7. The protein assay method according to Claim 6, wherein  
15 albumin concentration is measured for an albumin-containing sample whose albumin concentration is between 10 and 20 mg/dL.

8. A protein assay indicator for assaying a protein, said indicator having a chemical structure expressed by the following Chemical Formula (2):



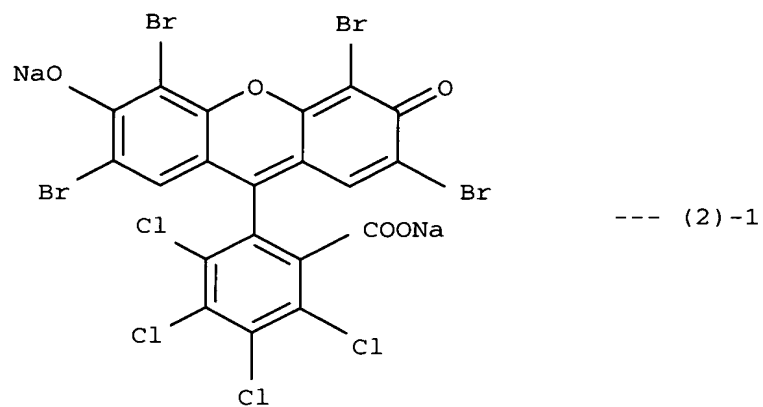
5        where, in Chemical Formula (2), X1 is a halogen, a nitro group, or a nitroso group; X2 is a halogen; X3 is a halogen or hydrogen; X4 is a hydroxyl group or a salt thereof; and X5 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

10    9. The protein assay indicator according to Claim 8, wherein, in Chemical Formula (2), X1 is iodine, bromine, chlorine, or a nitro group, X2 is iodine or bromine, and X3 is chlorine, bromine, or hydrogen.

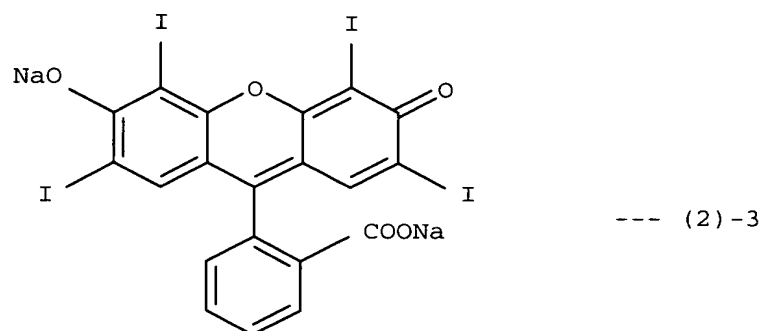
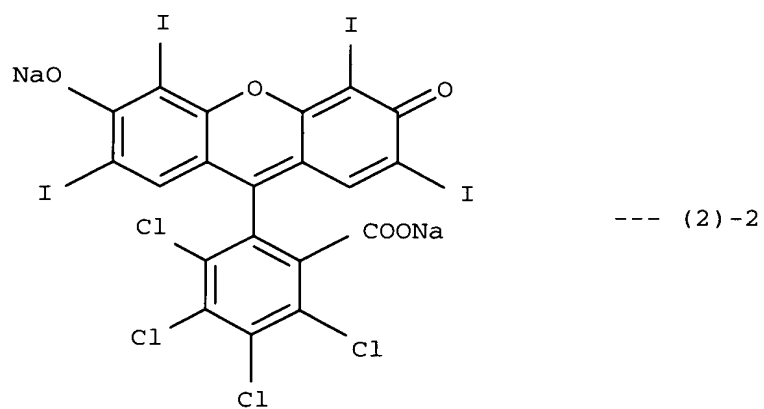
15    10. The protein assay indicator according to Claim 9, wherein, in Chemical Formula (2), X1 and X2 are iodine or bromine, and X3 is chlorine.

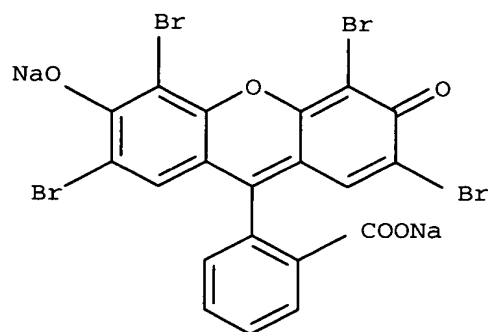
11. The protein assay indicator according to Claim 8, the  
20    indicator being at least one compound selected from the

group of compounds expressed by the following Chemical Formulas (2)-1 to (2)-5:

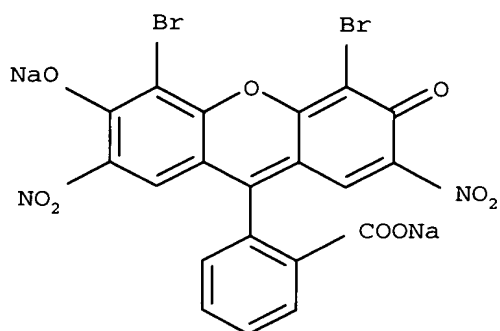


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--- (2)-4

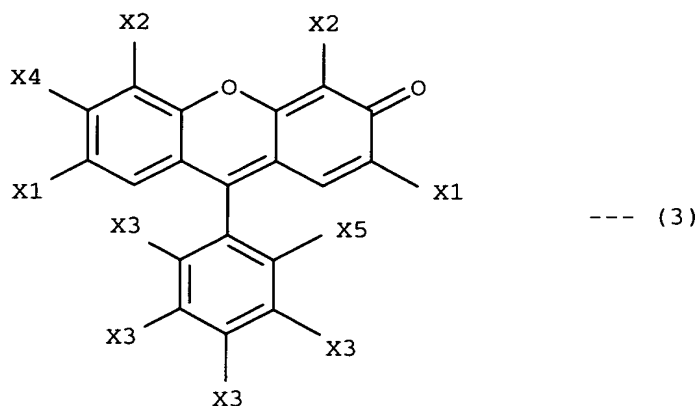


--- (2)-5

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12. The protein assay indicator according to Claim 8,  
 wherein the indicator being is from colorless to light  
 orange in color when no protein is present at a pH equal to  
 or below the pKa, but is from red to purple in color when a  
 10 protein is present.

13. A test piece for protein assay used for quantifying or  
 semi-quantifying a protein, wherein a compound having a  
 chemical structure expressed by the following Chemical  
 15 Formula (3) is used as a protein assay indicator:



where, in Chemical Formula (3), X1 is a halogen, a  
 nitro group, or a nitroso group; X2 is a halogen; X3 is a  
 halogen or hydrogen; X4 is a hydroxyl group or a salt  
 5 thereof; and X5 is a carboxyl group or a salt thereof.

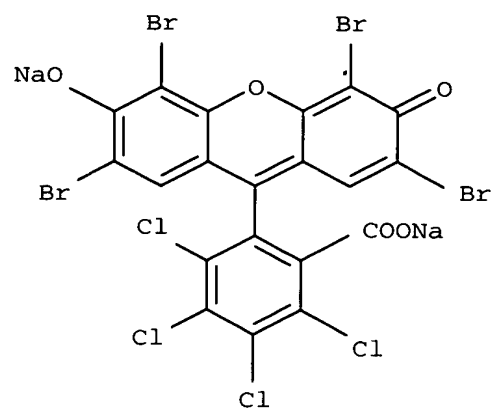
14. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 13,  
 wherein, in Chemical Formula (3), X1 is iodine, bromine,  
 chlorine, or a nitro group, X2 is iodine or bromine, and X3  
 10 is chlorine, bromine, or hydrogen.

15. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 13,  
 wherein, in Chemical Formula (3), X1 and X2 are iodine or  
 bromine, and X3 is chlorine.

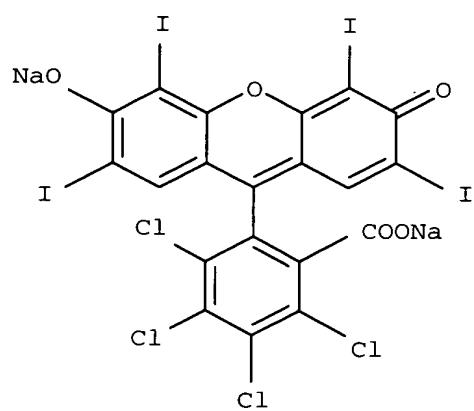
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16. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 13,  
 wherein at least one compound selected from the group of  
 compounds expressed by the following Chemical Formulas (3)-1  
 to (3)-5 is used as the protein indicator:

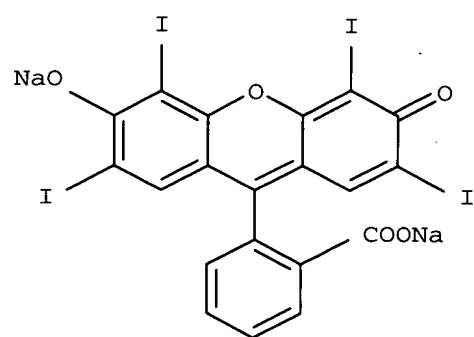
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--- (3)-1

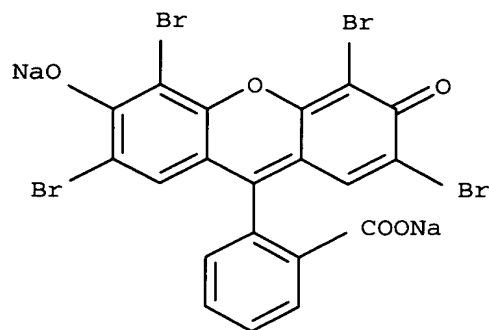


--- (3)-2

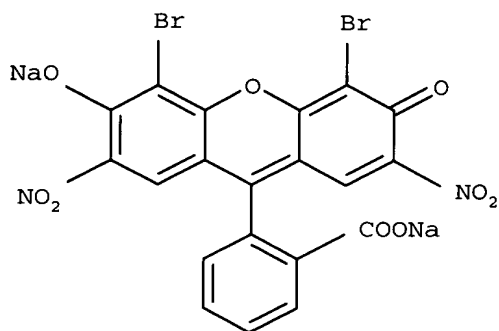


--- (3)-3





--- (3)-4



--- (3)-5

- 5 17. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 13, wherein the protein indicator is from colorless to light orange in color when no protein is present at a pH equal to or below the pKa of said protein indicator, but is from red to purple in color when a protein is present.
- 10 18. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 13, further containing a sensitizer for increasing the coloration sensitivity with respect to the protein.
- 15 19. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 18, containing polyethylene glycol and/or polypropylene glycol as the sensitizer.